

THE TRUE REFUGE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

"PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS." (READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4)

Beloved, put off the old man. How do you do that? Believe Christ. Beloved, put on the new man. How do you do that? Believe Christ. Beloved, put on the new man "*which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*" (EPHESIANS 4:24).

This is the true refuge and haven of God's people; the *righteousness* and *true holiness* of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul said "...I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9).

How do I know if Christ is my refuge, if Christ is my peace? How can I know that He has been made to be my righteousness?

Do you count all the doings of your flesh, but dung? Paul said "...I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (PHILIPPIANS 3:8).

Do you count all the doing of your flesh, nothing more than a pile of filthy ruined rags? God's word declares "...we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." (ISAIAH 64:6)

Like all God's people, Paul did not want to be found in his doing. Paul wanted to be found in the righteous doing and true holiness of Christ. Paul said his hope was to "...be found in Christ, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law [Paul did not want to be found in his imperfect keeping of the law], but [Paul wanted to be found in] that which is through the faith of Christ, [through CHRIST's perfect keeping of the law] the righteousness which is of God by faith" (PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9).

Beloved, believe it—the righteousness of CHRIST, which is of GOD, is freely given and made yours by His grace. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*" (EPHESIANS 2:8-9).

If by God's unmerited grace, you find yourself believing Christ Jesus the Lord—rejoice! For great is your peace, He saith "*In righteousness shalt thou be established...*" He saith "*their righteousness is of me*" that "*to the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*" AMEN! (ISAIAH 54:17, 1 THESSALONIANS 3:13)

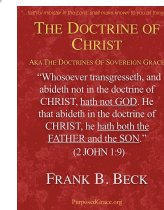
PASTOR

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

May 26th, 2019

"...the GOD of all grace, who hath called us unto HIS eternal glory by CHRIST JESUS, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

(1 PETER 5:10)



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HE WHO DOES NOT HATE THE FALSE, DOES NOT LOVE THE TRUE

“IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS: AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM,
AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM”

(JOHN 14:24)

I cannot endure false doctrine, however neatly it may be put before me. Would you have me eat poisoned meat because the dish is of the choicest ware? It makes me indignant when I hear another gospel put before the people with enticing words by man who would fair make merchandise of souls; and I marvel at those who have soft words for such deceivers. “That is your bigotry,” says one. Call it so if you like; but it is the bigotry of the loving John, who wrote, [in 2 JOHN 1:10-11] *“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”* I would to God we all had more of such decision, for the lack of it is depriving our religious life of its backbone and substituting for honest manliness a mass of tremulous jelly of mutual flattery.

HE WHO DOES NOT HATE THE FALSE, DOES NOT LOVE THE TRUE; and he to whom it is all the same, whether it be God’s word or man’s, is himself un-renewed at heart. Oh, if some of you were like your fathers, you would not have tolerated in this age the wagon loads of trash under which the gospel has been of late buried by ministers of your own choosing. The

apostle spake by inspiration when he said, [in GALATIANS 1:8] *“...though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* According to modern effeminacy he ought to have said, “Let him be kindly spoken with in private, but pray make no stir. No doubt the good brother has his own original modes of thought and we must not question his liberty. Doubtless he believes the same as we do, only there is some little difference as to terms.” This is treason to Christ and treachery to truth and cruelty to souls.

IF WE LOVE OUR LORD, WE SHALL KEEP HIS WORDS AND STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, coming out from among the false teachers. Nor is this inconsistent with charity; for the truest love to those who err is not to fraternize with them in their error, but to be faithful to [the Lord] Jesus Christ in *all* things.

[PASTOR] **CHARLES SPURGEON** (1834—1892, 57)

I HAVE KEPT BACK NOTHING PROFITABLE UNTO YOU

“I KEPT BACK NOTHING THAT WAS PROFITABLE UNTO YOU...”

(READ ACTS CHAPTER 20)

I am not wise enough to know what facet of divine revelation a person has missed; I’m not smart enough to devise plans of study and growth for a particular group! If I take upon myself to organize and direct your worship, faith, and understanding you will (perish the thought) only be like me and not like Christ. How many professors of theology, pastors of assemblies, and teachers of scripture are turning out carbon copies of themselves. The solution is found in Paul’s words to the [elders] in Acts 20 *I have kept back nothing profitable unto you—I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God—Brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up* [ACTS 20:20,27,32]. Did not the apostle warn us of following men to the point of divisions, envying, and strife? *“I am of Paul; I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who is Paul and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?”* (1 CORINTHIANS 3:4-5). ‘I am a Calvinist,’ one says, or ‘I am pre-millennial,’ or ‘I am reformed.’ If you really mean that in all that it implies, its unfortunate, for the diamond of truth is infinitely greater and more glorious than Calvin, all of the reformers put together, and every religious system that ever existed. *It is the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We preach Christ and ourselves your servants for Christ’s sake!* [2 COR 4:5-6].

PASTOR **HENRY MAHAN**